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CUSTOMS DECISIONS.

CRUSHED CURRANTS—In a decision handed down yesterday, overruling a protest made by the General Appraisers, it was held that the 20 per cent ad valorem tax on crushed currants from Greece were properly taxed for importation under the specific provisions of the Tariff Act of 1909.

The protestants contended for duty at the rate of 10 per cent ad valorem.

It was held that the market value of the crushed currants was manifest that the substantial portion of the financial community was disposed to doubt the ability of level headed sagacity at Washington or London or Paris to handle satisfactorily the new problems posed by Germany and the market in time gave evidence of apprehensive concern over the international project.

Weakness which developed in the Mercantile Marine issues provided a leverage for trading efforts to depress the rest of the list, but the market in general was not materially affected by weakness in any particular direction.

There was an increase of pressure around mid-session which was stoutly resisted and in the afternoon there were sharp rallies notably in Crucible Steel, which recovered very quickly, and in very little buying more than its decline since Monday morning.

Showy buying continued to the support of the market in the afternoon, but it was inferential from the aspects of the list that there had again been evident absorption of stocks in the intervals of decline.

Superficial speculative elements in the market were not perceptible of the valid and constructive role of the factors of profitable general business expansion which have been persistently enhancing values than are the reflective and far more important financial circles which are persuaded that the prosperous condition which has been obtained to endure and increase throughout the country for some time to come.

Speculative interest was shown by courage to purchases rather than sales of securities. The situation is adequately reflected in the investment demand which is persistently strong and active in investment securities, old and new, with apparently undiminished capacity.

DIARIES FOR 1916.—A heavy advance in made of the foreign market value of 5000 diaries for 1916 imported from Japan, according to a statement issued by the General Appraisers.

These diaries were entered here at \$15.50 per dozen, and the same they should have been entered at \$12.10 per dozen.

In explaining the issue involved, the Board of United States General Appraisers said that the original entry of the Central Vermont Railways company, of Albion, Vt., and reverse the collectors of the same, was based upon the terms under the provision in paragraph 1 of the present law for "cardboard and bristol paper, not otherwise specified" with duty at the rate of 10 per cent ad valorem.

General Appraisers Fischer, in giving his opinion on this case holds that the importers claim is substantiated by the uncontradicted evidence adduced at the hearing.

LEATHER BOARD—Leather board used exclusively in making beds for sailors, newly entitled leather under the provision of the leather section of compressed leather in paragraph 230 of the tariff of 1909, was not materially affected by weakness in any particular direction.

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